

Our Goal...

Help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products.

Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals for the program.

Benefits ...

For Applicants

- Provides cash injection to a project that will potentially assist independent agricultural producers to enter into activities that add value to their commodities; expand markets and increase financial returns.



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Visit...

📄 <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MNHome.html>

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United States Department of Agriculture

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)



Striving to support rural communities and enhance quality of life for rural residents by improving economic opportunities, community infrastructure, environmental health, and the sustainability of agricultural production.

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

The primary objective of this grant program is to help Independent Producers of agricultural commodities, Agriculture Producer Groups, Farmer and Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority -Controlled Producer-Based Business Ventures enter into value-added activities related to the processing and /or marketing of biobased value added agricultural products.

Grants are awarded competitively for either planning or working capital projects directly related to the processing and/or marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals.



Smude Sunflower Cooking Oil from Smude Farms, MN.

Eligibility...

Eligible Applicants are:

- Independent Producer
- Agricultural Producer Group
- Farmer or Rancher Cooperative
- Majority Controlled Producer-Based Business

And meet all related requirement for Emerging Market (as applicable), Citizenship, Legal Authority and Responsibility, Multiple Grants and Active Grants, Departmental requirements related to debarment, suspension and exclusion from participation in Federal assistance programs, as well as requirements related to outstanding Federal income taxes, judgments and delinquencies.

Applications from Federally Recognized Tribal Groups and corporations and subdivisions of Tribal Groups undertaking or planning to undertake eligible value-added projects are encouraged.

All applicant types must meet the independent Producer and Agricultural Producer definition requirements in 7 CFR 4284.902.

Grant Period...

- Project timeframe or grant period can be a maximum of 36 months in length from the date of the award.

Eligible Use of Funds...

- Planning Activities: conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing value-added agricultural products
- Working Capital: expenses for processing and marketing value-added agricultural products, including inventory, salaries, and office supplies
- Both eligible uses of funds have maximum grant amounts announced annually in the Federal Register.

Previous Awards...

Planning Activities

- Wind farms
- Marketing specialty identity preserved soybeans
- Processing and marketing organic beef
- Dehydration of vegetables and herbs
- Ethanol and biodiesel plants

Working Capital

- Marketing gift boxes of pork products
- Marketing and packaging materials
- Design and packaging of milk products
- Developing new markets for port cuts
- Marketing of new health food snacks
- Introduce a new variety of apples
- Marketing compost products

**Please contact your local
USDA Area Specialist for
more information.**